



APHIS

Plant Protection and Quarantine

Pest Detection and Management Programs

Weekly Notice, July 21, 2003

This "Weekly Notice" is prepared by the Pest Detection and Management Programs (PDMP) to communicate recent important events. These notices and other more detailed program information can be found at:

Emergency Programs

Asian longhorned beetle - A senior official from the European Commission's Plant Protection Directorate, Lionel Mesnildrey, will be visiting the United States from Brussels, Belgium, late July through mid-August. He will be visiting Riverdale on Phytosanitary Issues, CPHST in Raleigh on risk based analysis, the fruit fly program, maritime and airport operations, and Sudden Oak Death in California, the National Plant Board meeting in Tacoma Washington, and the Asian Longhorned Beetle Program in Illinois.

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Plum pox virus - So far this year more than 113,000 leaf samples have been processed in the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (PDA) laboratory in Harrisburg. This included samples from commercial Stone fruit orchards in the State, as well as about 17,000 samples from the survey of residential properties in and adjacent to the quarantine areas. As a result of these survey and testing activities PPV had been found at 6 new locations, with one exception all within existing quarantine areas. The new detections include 4 at residential properties (3 in Franklin Township, York County, one in Latimore Township, Adams County), one in a 10 acre commercial orchard within a quarantine area (Menallen Township, Adams County), and a 40 acre orchard that is partially in the Menallen Township, Adams County quarantine area. All host plants at the infested properties, and within 500 meters of the infested properties have been destroyed or are currently being destroyed. In addition, the PPV project staff is in the process of determining what changes need to be made to the quarantine boundaries to accommodate the recent detection that extends beyond the current quarantine boundaries. The survey of commercial orchards is now about 70 percent complete. Sampling has been

completed in Cumberland, Dauphin, and Lebanon Counties, and is continuing in Adams, Franklin, York, and Lancaster Counties.

Citrus Canker - On July 18 a Broward County Circuit Court Judge granted a request for a temporary injunction, preventing the State from cutting infected and exposed citrus trees in Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach Counties. The judge took this action in response to a request for an injunction filed by local residents. The basis for the Judge's action was that the State is not doing adequate diagnostic tests to confirm the presence of citrus canker at new locations where the disease may be present. It is not clear at this time the exact nature of additional diagnostic tests that may be required. It is likely that the State will appeal this action. At the present time, the only infected and exposed trees that are being cut in the three counties in question are those removed with the permission of the homeowner.

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Domestic Programs

Sudden oak death - The United Kingdom this week identified a new plant as having been found associated with *P. ramorum* (Pr) in their country. This latest adds to a growing list (16) of plant associations awaiting notification of completion of Koch's postulates and possible U.S. Federal regulation. The UK reported that they have added *Taxus baccata* (English yew) to the list. The finding was in one potted infected plant within a nursery. The plant was destroyed and the disease under eradication in the nursery. English yew is widely cultivated in Britain, and is found through Europe to the middle-east as well as in wide cultivation in North America. Though commonly grown as a hedge and used in topiary, this species has been reported to grow to a tree size as much as 40 meters tall. This species also shows great longevity with individual trees in Britain having been estimated in age exceeding 2000 years of age.

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